

Minutes of the 681st Meeting held on Wednesday 25th March at 6.30 for 7pm

Virtual meeting Google Meetup

Present: Ted Chatley, Warwick Francis, Patrick Brennan, Ray Nicol, Chris Betley, Alex Lawrence, Ben Donaldson, Candida Williamson, Jean Loveland, Alex Lawrence, Harvey Kirk

Apologies: Sarah Crofton, Clive Harris, Michael Foster

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes accepted. Proposed by Ted, seconded by Ray

2. Covid 19 (Coronavirus)

Apiary and Miller Hall closed for visiting except for beekeeping of existing hives.

- a. **Shop:** Warwick and Harvey to take online orders, direct payment advised to membership, with invoice on acknowledgement of order. List of most popular items now include Apibioxal, gimp pins and 14x12 wax foundation. Regular collection on Friday evening with social distancing maintained until further notice.
- b. **Training:** No training until further notice
- c. **Apiary:** Ray and Patrick inspected last week, schedule and task list produced by Ray and calendar on Twickerbees.co.uk for booking visits so no clashes.
- d. **Keys:** Patrick has a spare set for Miller Hall.
- e. Patrick and Ray to put all hive records online via website and Dashboard on members page.
- f. **Email from Linda asking for help looking after bees, to put it to the membership. (???) didnt get all of this as I lost connection**

3. Apiary and Mole Works

Mole Apiary: - Classed as an allotment. 5m exclusion zone with no more than 2 people at the apiary at one time. At present only a few people are using the apiary so chances of clashing are low: Ian Whitehead, Peter Gabriel, Mick and Diane and James Mackenzie.

-Use of the kitchen is off limits so no tea and coffee making. Bee stuff can be cleaned as usual.

-A neighbour asked if they could mend the new bit of fencing (on boundary with new building works) as their dog is trying to get in. Harvey to let them know they can do the works and a thank you with a jar of honey. Main fencing has not been done as yet.

Twickenham Apiary

- a. Candida has almost finished the new hide. This has been put on hold until Candida can travel.
- b. Quote for railings on hold until Patrick can get another quote
- c. Electricity use has been monitored, not using Miller Hall now, Reading taken on 27th March.
- d. Boiler works fine now.

4. Correspondence received

-Peter Smith suggested a beekeeper Q and A similar to the Meet Up or even a fun quiz. Questions could be put in "Chat" first.

Alex suggested a video taking on hive through the season but this commits two people with difficulty in self isolating.

-Warwick to ask if there are volunteers willing to help with bees in crisis situations caused by Covid 19. Motion carried unanimously. Warwick to contact membership.

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-The Centenary film is a finalist in the Charity film awards. The awards are streamed on 21st April at 6.30pm. Voting takes place immediately afterwards. Warwick to send out details to membership. Facebook page already updated.

5. Membership Secretary (WF)

147 members with 114 regular members

New members:

Thomas Bradley (School membership Twyford School Ealing)

Thomas Conrad (Junior member)

Isabel Bergerol

Alexandra Palley

James Burke

Andy Morrison

R Waite

D Mc Donald

Andrea Young.

Members accepted unanimously.

There is a backlog of people wanting to do practical beginners course, may have to restrict the winter course numbers until the backlog has been resolved. Committee see no prospect of any training taking place this season. Decision to be taken in due course regarding winter course.

6. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)

We are not spending money (Covid 19) Gift aid £1800, £1147 spent

Rates have been paid for both apiaries

Water Bill for Twickenham is £236 in credit.

Accounts-Patrick to contact accountant re producing audited accounts. Warwick not sure what "equipment fund" is on accounts, this needs clarification.

£83,713.70 total funds.

Patrick to be added to list of trustees, Jean to be cosignatory. Warwick to organise this in due course.

7. AHAT

Ray has posted his blog online regarding the AHAT conference he and Warwick attended.

Education and disseminating information difficult with Covid 19 taking precedence.

8. AOB

- a. Ray updated the blog, if anyone wants to add to the blog contact Ray (security issues).
- b. Ann Denney has some 2nd hand equipment to sell. This is difficult at present time.
- c. AGM suspended until further notice.
- d. Charities commission have given permission for virtual meetings.
- e. Changes to rules last year (Schools membership) agreed and passed but not added to official rules, also have to be logged with charities Commission.
- f. Committe to make amendment to rules so we can have virtual meetings.

Meeting concluded at 8.52pm

Next meeting Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7.30pm

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